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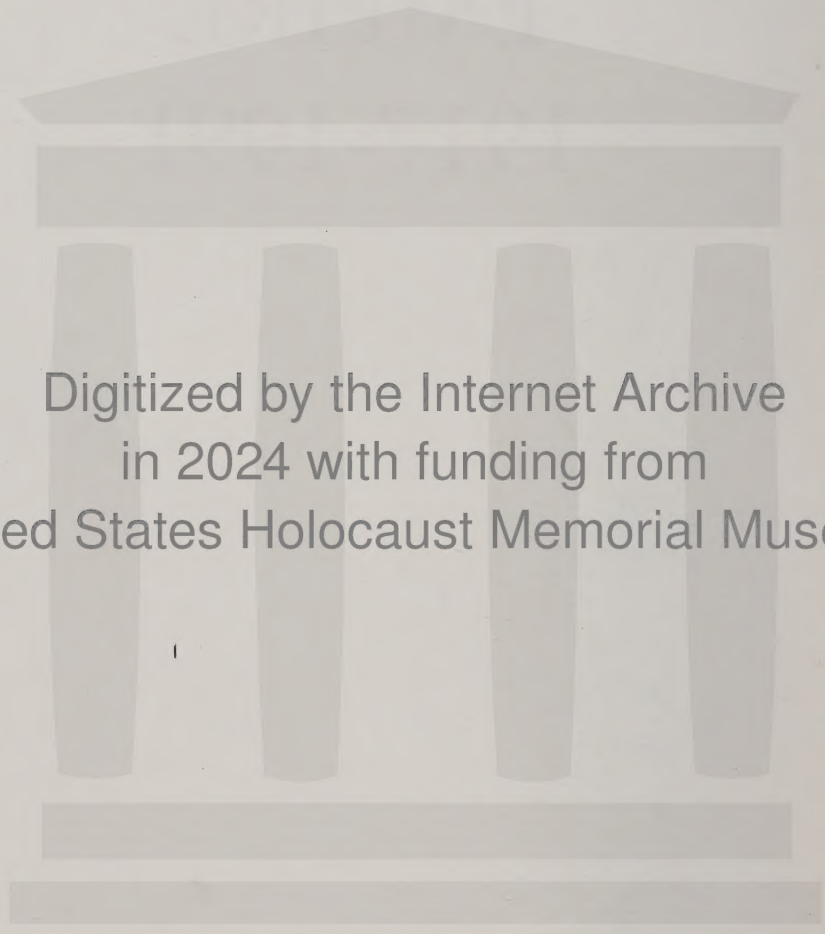
The Memoirs of a WWII Veteran

The Evil Empire

Jacob Goldman

THE EVIL EMPIRE 1917-1991



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THE EVIL EMPIRE

1917-1991

The Memoirs of a World War II Veteran

Jacob Goldman

Edited by
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and
Karen Karlitz

GOLD

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For Valentina, of course, my wife, my friend and my support for the last six decades—and counting!

This book was written in the memory of
my father, Israel (age 54),
my mother, Sarah (age 45),
and my sister, Lisa (age 12)
who all perished in the Holocaust in 1941;
and also to my brother, Asher (Sasha, 1913-1982),
a Red Army officer who was injured in 1941.

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO
MY CHILDREN,
AND THEIR CHILDREN
AND THEIR CHILDREN . . .

My family in 1929, Odessa, USSR
From right mother Sarah, brother Asher (Sasha),
the author, sister Lisa and father Israel

INTRODUCTION

It was July 1941. The Germans had just invaded the Soviet Union (USSR). The author, in military training at the time, urged his family to flee their hometown Odessa (on the Black Sea) while they were still able.

In "The Evil Empire," the author effectively weaves his own personal memoir into the history of the Soviet Union. He recalls life in the early days of the new socialist country—the USSR. He relates his years of distinguished service in the Soviet army during the war, followed by the terrible aftermath, when Stalin put in place a State-sanctioned policy of anti-Semitism. The author frankly admits that the greatest mistake he made in his life was not fleeing to the West when he had the opportunity while stationed in post-war Berlin.

This comprehensive book covers the years of Russian history spanning 1917 to 1991. There have been few times in history when one country has gone through such a turbulent period of socio-political upheaval. The author describes the emotional impact of living in a country where the population was subjected to the "great experiment" of Marxism, unique in world history, World War II, the Cold War and Glasnost.

"The Evil Empire" is at once a probing historical document and a compelling personal account of one man's bittersweet journey through the violent history of 20th Century Russia.

Editor

FOREWORD

One of my primary reasons to convert my private memoirs into a published book is to present a more balanced and less politicized history of World War II, more than half a century since it occurred and through the lens of my own personal experience and judgment.

To present a more balanced—no matter how short—the history of the USSR—a cut-off-from-the world, one-of-a-kind, controversial civilization, misunderstood and misjudged by many.

Additionally, and in good faith, I would like to challenge the brilliant publication of Tom Brokaw ("The Greatest Generation," Random House, 1998).

And finally, I wish to honor and pay respect to another such generation, two to three years prior, that waged the war against Hitler's Germany from the East—the USSR, which suffered military fatalities in excess of 25 million. It is this generation that, in alliance with Brokaw's "Greatest Generation," shortened the span of Hitler's proclaimed, "thousand years of the Third Deutche Reich," to 12 bloody years, 1933-45.

Jacob Goldman

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

The "Evil Empire"—President Ronald Reagan's nickname for the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialistic Republics)—was born in 1917. It was the result of a military coup of the democratically elected Parliament and government of Russia by a minority faction, the Bolsheviks (synonymous with Marxists and communists).

Kerensky, the head of the legally elected government, fled Russia to the West. Later, this coup was called "The Great October Revolution."

The new rulers, V. Lenin (Premier Minister), Leon Trotsky (Military Minister and Commander-in-Chief) and their comrades initiated the biggest and, at that time, only social experiment on this large country, which contained 1/6 of all the land in the world. They imposed the philosophy of Karl Marx on almost 180 million human beings. They abolished private ownership of factories, land and all other means of production, criminating private ownership and, immediately after World War I, triggered a bloody civil war. This war lasted from 1918 to 1920 and caused mass emigration of many of the best of Russia's population.

Unique in the history of mankind, this social experiment resulted in the total destruction of the economy, and caused hunger, misery and epidemics.

This period was called "Military Communism."

At that time in Moscow, Lenin confided to the visiting young Armand Hammer (the late president of American Occidental Petroleum) that, "Communism doesn't work," and "We need more people like you" (meaning private entrepreneurs). This was revealed years later in Hammer's published memoirs.

A. Hammer was the son of an American communist, a phar-

macist. His father sent him to Russia to help them with their grain shipments. The Lenin/Hammer business association delivered large shipments of grain to Russia in exchange for some of Russia's most prized national treasures—artwork and jewelry from the Czar's collections and that had been confiscated from the population (the "haves").

Of course, Hammer made a lot of money in this venture. In addition, his friend Lenin gave him big concessions for asbestos mining in the Ural Mountains and other areas. Hammer maintained close and lucrative business relations with USSR authorities all his life.

In 1922, to prevent and reduce the disaster of "Military Communism," and despite Trotsky's and Stalin's objections, Lenin introduced the "New Economic Policy" (NEP), easing the restrictions on small private businesses. Immediately, the market reacted with an abundance of commodities and the living standards of the population improved significantly.

To silence his opponents, Lenin, then in poor health, justified his NEP as one step back before making two steps ahead. But shortly after, he was quietly removed from running the country under the guise of "health reasons."

Lenin died in January, 1924 and the fight for his "throne" began vigorously between Trotsky and Stalin. Both were left-wing (radical) communists, so this was not a political struggle. It was simply personal. By 1929, Stalin had won this battle and expelled Trotsky from the country. He canceled the NEP, going back to zero to begin building communism—his way. Lenin had tried to make the "one step back." Now Stalin was intent on making the "two steps forward"—his way.

Wihout the past -
There is no future.

CHAPTER 1

THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

Sunday, June 22, 1941, 11 a.m.
Odessa, USSR

While I was preparing for examination at the Odessa Institute of Civil Engineering, a radio broadcast (at the time, there were no televisions) said there would be a special emergency announcement at 12 noon from the Foreign Minister of the USSR, Comrade Molotov. At noon, Molotov informed us that at 5 a.m. that morning, Hitler began the war against the USSR, violating the existing Hitler-Stalin Non-Aggression Pact that was signed in August, 1939 between the two countries. This started a blitz-krieg, without a formal Declaration of War.

Ironically, Hitler and Stalin were spiritual friends—both bloody dictators in the name of socialism.

At 5 a.m. that day, the Nazis had bombed Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Odessa and moved across the borders in a massive invasion.

At 6 a.m. that same Sunday morning, the German Ambassador in Moscow, Friedrich Schellenberg, delivered the official Declaration of War personally to Molotov. Molotov told Schellenberg that he already knew of their ground actions. He then proceeded to spit on the Declaration. He tore it up and angrily showed Schellenberg the door.

In short order, Italy, Romania, Hungary and Finland also declared war on the USSR. This was a shock to our country, because

Hitler and Stalin were allies the prior two years. Poland had been divided between Germany and the USSR and we had taken over the Baltic States, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Securing peace on Germany's eastern borders, Stalin had supplied Hitler with huge amounts of strategic commodities—food, lumber, etc.—all crucial for Hitler to wage his war against the West. This supply continued to flow to Germany for several hours after the invasion—there were no orders from "above."

This was the USSR's Pearl Harbor, but it was a hundred times bigger and more lethal. The front line stretched from the North Arctic Circle to the Black Sea, comprising almost 1,800 miles!

The second bombing of Odessa began one month later on July 22. The next day, all students of higher education (myself included) had to report up for military service to the military colleges of Odessa. I was ordered to attend the Infantry College for military training where they trained men to become lieutenants, platoon and company commanders.

Early in the war, the situation at the fronts steadily worsened. The Germans broke through the fierce resistance of our border forces. They smashed USSR territory in huge, motorized columns. By July 2nd, German Air Forces shot the Soviet Air Forces out of the sky, taking more than 500,000 prisoners, including Stalin's son (Yacov Dzugashvily) and many Generals. In all, more than 1,200 tanks and 600 big guns were captured. Entire Soviet armies were encircled and forced to surrender, many high-ranking commanders included. A total collapse of the front appeared to be inevitable.

Stalin was in shock and on the verge of a total breakdown. He locked himself in his study and refused to see anyone for several days. Stalin first appeared on July 3, on State radio, eleven days after the start of the war. It was Molotov who spoke to the country these days.

By July 8, more than half of the 160 Soviet Divisions had been destroyed or captured. Smolensk City fell with more than 800,000 soldiers and their commanders encircled and forced to surrender.

Red Army Private Jacob Goldman,
July, 1941, Odessa

The Germans were now moving toward Moscow, Kiev, Leningrad and Odessa.

Odessa, like all of western USSR, began the evacuation of all military assets, factories, civilian populations and, of course, military colleges to the eastern part of the country. At the beginning of July, my wife Valentina and her family—all women and children—departed for an undetermined destination. On June 23, my eldest brother, Asher (Sasha), an Artillery Officer in reserve, was called up for active duty. In an attempt to stop the Germans, he was sent to Moldova. Within just a few days, he received multiple injuries and was captured by the Germans. Somehow he managed to escape captivity and was sent to a military hospital. After that time, sadly, I lost his whereabouts.

The last time I saw my father, mother and little sister (age 12) was after my arrival in July at the military colleges of Odessa. They came to the college and we spoke through an iron gate. I urged them to leave Odessa immediately and gave them all the money that I had. I have never seen them again. According to some of the neighbors, they began to head east via horse coach on Nikolaev Road.

That is the only thing I have ever learned about my families' passage.

At the end of July, me and my fellow students—without any military training, but loaded with military equipment on our shoulders—began our departure East to Nikolaev City by foot. There were skirmishes with the advancing German forces, as well as air strikes. Somehow we covered approximately 20 miles a day. After passing Nikolaev City (and suffering many fatalities), we reached the city of Herson. At that time, German forces had encircled Odessa. We managed to escape that and continued northeast to Dnepropetrovsk City. Then, under the threat of German air strikes, we traveled by train to the Ural Mountains (the city of Uralsk), a point between the European and Asian sections of the USSR.

We were all a part of the historic evacuation effort by the USSR command to relocate and possibly save potential military assets

(factories, human resources, etc.) from the overwhelming, sudden and vicious offense of Hitler's forces.

In Uralsk, in the harsh winter of 1941, we received intense military training and education for a six-month period, instead of the usual four years. I became an Infantry Lieutenant and was ready to fight for my country. However, due to the spectacular Red Army losses on the fronts and the expectation of a prolonged war, there was great demand for qualified officers with military knowledge and training. Hence, I was sent to a newly opened military college in Astrahan (on the Caspian Sea) as a company commander to produce more officers qualified to serve as military commanders against the Germans. My class contained 100 students.

At that time, I was only 22 years of age.

In Uralsk, I began to try to locate my family and my wife, Valentina, who was in Middle Asia in the city of Tashkent (Uzbek SSR, now called Uzbekistan). After exchanging letters, she came to my new place for one week that winter of 1941. The temperature was far below zero. With the permission of my military command, Valentina came into my military barracks.

It was a miracle!

The second time she came to see me was a few months later in the spring of 1942. Our first baby, Lialla, was born in Astrahan. It was a very hard time: war, hunger, air strikes and the Germans were not far as they were in Stalingrad and North Caucasus.

But it was a very happy time, because we were all together!

Unfortunately, our happiness did not last for long. When Lialla was two months old, I was sent to command an Infantry Battalion as Chief of Staff of 250 soldiers. At my request, I was sent in the direction of the city of Odessa, which was the 4th Ukrainian front, the 2nd Guardian (elite) Division, the 5th Guardian Regiment.

Before my departure, the college command allowed me to bring my wife, then sick with malaria, and my daughter to her relatives in Tashkent for a few days. I then returned to the front, to the battlefield.

All the while, the biggest war in the history of mankind, The Great Patriotic War, raged on, with losses of millions of people on both sides.

Earlier, I had mentioned the shock that the brutal, unexpected Blitzkrieg on our country caused after two years of friendship and cooperation between Stalin and Hitler. But even more painful and startling was the unexpected collapse and defeat of the Red Army (the Soviet army) at the beginning of the war. For years, we were indoctrinated that we had the strongest and largest armed forces in the world, and that if we had to go to war, we would fight on foreign soil only. This was the reason for the many years of suffering before the war—for the hunger and misery of our people. We were sacrificing to build up our armies so they would be able to defend the only communist country against possible capitalistic aggression. This was the excuse given for decades for the suffering, hunger, death and starvation of many millions of the population before the war began.

What happened and why did it happen?

These are the questions that I believe need to be answered. After 50 to 60 years of evaluating and researching this period in history, I will attempt to answer these questions to the best of my experience and knowledge.

CHAPTER 2

THE RISE OF JOSEF STALIN

In 1929, just before Hitler came to power in Germany, Josef Stalin consolidated his own absolute power, destroying all opposition in the ruling communist party and expelling his main rival, Leo Trotsky, out of the country. In later years, Stalin had Trotsky assassinated and his entire family killed. Stalin called this "genetically wiping out," that is, eliminating a whole family—including the children.

World War I lasted from 1914 until 1918—the Civil War was 1918 until 1921—the upheaval inside the country continued until Stalin took power in 1929. It involved 15 years of war against foreign adversaries and the brutal destruction of our people. For 15 years, the population was fleeced of its best, brightest and most noble, young entrepreneurs, scientists and peasants. Throughout 15 years of manmade destruction, the USSR's economy, infrastructure and culture were neglected and there was mass departure of the brightest minds. Was this not enough to explain the defeats the country suffered in 1941?

If not—then hold your breath!

Josef Stalin was the son of a peasant, whose parents were serfs in Gory, Georgia (USSR). His mother, Ekaterina, a young and pretty servant, was seduced by a high-ranking Czarist official and became pregnant. Stalin was born on December 9, 1879. He was the fourth son in the family, but became an only child after the others died in infancy. A "father" for the child was found. Vissarion Dzugashvily, now Ekaterina's husband, was a hard-drinking shoe-

maker. A shoe shop had been his reward for accepting a pregnant bride. He was extremely brutal to his son and wife, and eventually abandoned them both. He died in 1890.

Ekaterina was a hard-working and loving mother of her only child. At the age of 7, Stalin (nicknamed "Soso") became seriously ill with the measles. He survived, but his face was pockmarked for life. In Okhranka, the Czarist Secret Police, he was called "Ryaboi"—the pockmarked.

Thanks to his loving mother, he was accepted into the Gory Theological School and after, to the Tiflis (Tbilicy) Seminary to be ordained as a priest. But the Tiflis Seminary was also a hive of nationalists and revolutionaries, sworn to topple the Czarist. Stalin was a brilliant student but he hated the Seminary, where he was deeply offended by the students' taunts about his pockmarked face and shortened left arm (a result of the many fights he was in).

At the age of 18, Stalin became a Marxist. During his studies at the Seminary, he was one of 10 students who secretly formed a Marxist group. Later, he formed his own secret Marxist group. He was still a social leper in school. He also had a personal vendetta and difficulty with authority and, consequently, was expelled from the Seminary in May of 1899.

At this time, there is a gap in his biography, which some researchers attribute to his training as an agent of the Okhranka (a provocateur in the ranks of his Marxist comrades).

In 1905, he traveled to the Bolshevik (communist) conference in Finland. In 1906, he was in Stockholm for the 4th Congress of the Social Democratic Workers Party and in 1907, he traveled to London for the Fifth Congress without any funds of his own. He supported himself, his wife and his child and traveled 23,000 miles through territory mostly hostile to him and was able to obtain passports, allegedly with the help (including financial) of the Okhranka.

When Koba (Stalin's party name) came to London in 1903, he was an unknown, however, Lenin obtained the title of Consultative Delegate for him. Why?

Lenin was the leader of the Bolshevik Majority Section of the Communists, which was badly in need of funds at the time. Almost penniless, Lenin, in despair, turned to Koba. He had met him in Berlin and approved his plans to replenish Bolshevik coffers by robbing the Imperial Bank in Tiflis. Koba knew that if he could deliver the 300,000 rubles as he had promised, he would climb a few rungs up the Bolshevik ladder of leadership. Causing great bloodshed, Koba delivered to the Bolsheviks the 300,000 rubles in cash, along with stocks and bonds from the bank robbery. This brought him much closer to Lenin, despite the large intellectual gap between them.

After the October 1917 Revolution, Koba was carefully climbing toward ultimate power. During that year, he came to St. Petersburg under the name of Stalin ("man of steel"). Lenin appointed him as Commissar, which is a ministerial post, and as a member of the Central Committee.

Everyone who knew him hated him, except, of course, for Lenin. He was especially disliked by Leo Trotsky, who had come from Canada to organize the Red Army. Trotsky had great disdain for Stalin's crudeness, appearance, pockmarked face and what he called his "yellow eyes." He also resented his foul pipe, lack of humor, sarcasm and imperfect Russian.

Stalin's ability, however, to hold his tongue and make no mistakes turned out to be a very powerful asset.

After the Revolution, Stalin ranked number four in Soviet leadership behind Lenin, Trotsky and Bucharin. In 1920, Lenin became very suspicious of Stalin, but it was too late. Stalin was slowly moving toward victory in the future battle for the "throne." His men were taking positions of power throughout the country, replacing men who curiously "disappeared."

On April 2, 1922, Stalin became General Secretary, or Gensec, which was previously a largely ceremonial position. While Lenin's health declined, and with all eyes focused on the brilliant Leo Trotsky, the heir apparent, he gradually expanded the powers of the Gensec.

In Lenin's last will and testament, read to the members of the Central Committee after his death, Lenin asked that Stalin be removed from the Gensec position because of his cruelty and abuse of power. This would have greatly benefited Trotsky. Stalin made no public comment, but with the help of his allies, made sure that the testament disappeared.

He later executed all the witnesses as well.

Four years later, Stalin became the new dictator of all of Russia (USSR). He was more powerful and murderous than all the Czars before him. Illustrating this, in 1923, Stalin said to fellow communist leader Kamenev: "To choose the victim, to prepare the blow with care, with vengeance, and then go to bed, there is nothing sweeter in the world."

CHAPTER 3

STALIN IN POWER

Twelve members of the first Soviet government lived to 1937. Stalin killed 11 of them and he, himself, was the twelfth. Of the 504 members of the Central Committee elected in the years 1925 to 1934, Stalin killed 375. The heroes of the Revolution—including Zinoviev, Kamenev and Buharin—were marched to the wall and executed as "enemies of the people." The entire military command and almost all its senior officers were also executed or sent to prison camps. The talented Marshal Tukhachevsky, Chief of Staff of the Red Army, was sent to the wall and executed, together with his friends and family.

Of five Soviet Marshals, Stalin killed three. Of four fleet commanders, he also killed three. Approximately 82,000 experienced and intelligent members of the military corps were swept away, replaced by the inept and untrained. Teenagers began to command battalions; Captains in their twenties led Divisions. And all this happened on the eve of the war that Marshal Tukhachevsky had predicted, with great accuracy, would start in the spring of 1941.

But Stalin ignored this and many other intelligence warnings. He trusted Hitler!

Hitler was well aware of Stalin's paranoia and suspiciousness. His "Plan Barbarossa"—the invasion of the USSR—was ready in 1940. In an attempt to destroy the Red Army's military command, Hitler's intelligence service supplied plenty of fake, fabricated, "friendly information" to Stalin to produce "cases," one by

one, against Stalin's best military commanders; Marshal Tukhachevsky, Marshal Bluher (Far East Army Commander) and many others, before the firing—shouted "Long live Stalin!" in honest belief that Stalin did not know about their ordeal. It was a judicial mistake!

But mass persecution did not stop with the military. The "disappearance" of many obviously innocent citizens in the wee hours of the night was all too commonplace. People disappeared without a trace and there was no notification to the victims' families except that their loved ones were "enemies of the people." There was no justice. The population was stunned as word of these atrocities spread horror, helplessness, fear and submission throughout those remaining. This was exactly what Stalin wanted to achieve. The unofficial slogan of his reign was: "Better to kill or incarcerate 10 to 20 innocent people, than to let one potential dissident survive!" For each "enemy of the people" (EOP), there were three, four or more horrified and terrorized relatives, who were now considered second class citizens. And this massacre started two to five years before the war!

The victims numbered in the millions. After Stalin's death in 1953, and until 1998, more than 500,000 survivors were finally exonerated as absolutely innocent.

Starting in 1929, millions of middle and upper class peasants, called "kulaks" (Fists), were deprived of their land and property and sent to the Gulags as slave laborers, prompting widespread famine (1930 to 1933). Land ownership was now prohibited. The peasants were replaced by semi-state "collective farms," which proved to be a highly ineffective method of farming.

And so, it was under these circumstances, that the USSR entered into World War II—the Great Patriotic War! It's easy to see how the Soviets' defeats in 1941 were of Stalin's own making. Also, because he was despised by so many, some were happy to surrender and collaborate with the Germans—that is, until they found out the real price of Hitler's occupation!

CHAPTER 4

THE MARXIST EXPERIMENT

After becoming the absolute, unchallenged dictator in 1929, Stalin continued the monstrous Marxist social experiment in this large country. However, he now added his own twist to it. He developed a thesis of "permanent revolution," whereby despite the fact that capitalism has been destroyed, there will always be "capitalistic remnants in peoples' heads." Therefore, terrorizing the population was going to be the permanent policy and priority of the state. A new human being had to be created, one who had blind faith in the Marxist dogma, later to be called by those in the West, "homo Sovieticus."

And it worked! I myself can testify that this policy truly worked. If, starting from the cradle, you brainwash and indoctrinate the individual, you will create millions of homo Sovieticus. I was no exception to this brainwashing and often found myself at odds with my parents, insisting that we were "building communism." My father called Stalin and his comrades bandits and criminals. Until the end of the war, I was a homo Sovieticus.

So why was Marxism not working as promised? Why is it so irrational? And does anyone really need it?

Despite the steady, forceful educational indoctrination and brainwashing that Marxism is "science," it became obvious that it was not. It failed the scientific proof, it failed the experimental proof. Communist and Marxist countries everywhere in all corners of the world—with no exceptions—are vestiges of misery, poverty, destruction and absolute dictatorships—exactly the opposite of its promises.

Marxism can flourish only as a faith, a blind faith, whether that faith is genuine or has been enforced by brutality and indoctrination. Subject as it is to faith, to belief, it can correctly qualify as a religion.

According to Webster's College Dictionary, religion is: "A specific fundamental set of beliefs and practices agreed upon by a number of persons or sects."

Marxism has all the attributes of a religion. Begun in the 20th Century, during my generation (the past 50 to 60 years), it has grown worldwide in numbers of faithful that exceed those of Christianity in 1,900 years (approximately one billion followers); and more than Islam in 1,400 years (approximately one billion followers). It is aggressive and expansive with tremendous proselytizing, mythological, financial, political and military possibilities. Only if we qualify Marxism as a potent worldwide religion can it be possible to explain and understand all the mysteries of 20th Century history. To call it an "ideology," "cult" (Khruschev) or "evil empire" (Ronald Reagan) will not do the job.

For example, how otherwise can you explain the Cold War following World War II? The irrationality of that is staggering.

After the war, the United States with Marshal Plan (Marshal was U.S. Secretary of State) helped their former foes to a spectacular recovery in Germany and Japan. The United States and the West would have been happy to do the same for the USSR, raising the standard of living there dramatically, and mutually benefiting both countries.

However, here is where irrationality reigns once again. Stalin refused this help because to accept it would have meant he had to give up his Marxist religion. Adhering to Marxism was the only way he could remain in power, as democratic elections would definitely find him and his comrades defeated and make them subject to prosecution for their atrocities.

The Cold War phenomenon is not new and is of religious origin. It has existed for centuries between Christianity and Judaism, between Islam and Christianity, and starting in 1917 (with a

four-year break during World War II) between Marxism and Christianity.

How else can you explain the fall of communism and the collapse of the USSR in 1991? In a free, democratic election, the communist party maintained 40 percent of the seats in Parliament (Dumah). Hence, the communist state collapsed but the Marxist religion survived.

The real credit for creating and disseminating the new Marxist religion, besides the formation in the 1920s of the Communist International (Comintern), has to go to Josef Stalin. At first, he began by destroying the traditional, established, competing religions. He destroyed Christian, Muslim and Judaic places of worship, blowing up with dynamite the biggest cathedrals, churches, mosques and synagogues in the biggest cities—Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Odessa and more—destroying buildings of enormous historical and architectural value. He removed crosses from thousands of churches and took similar actions against other religions. He arrested and sent to the Gulags (State Authority for Prisons and Concentration Camps) all of the clergy and closed all the seminaries and religious schools, prohibiting worshipping (except to Marxism) and getting rid of all traces of Bibles and Korans.

Marxism became the monopolistic religion of the country, backed and associated with the state government.

The USSR became a theocratic state and theocratic states are known to be very strong in policing their flocks.

CHAPTER 5

ATTRIBUTES OF THE MARXIST RELIGION

The Gods

Stalin established his Think Tank—the Institute of Marxism/Leninism (IML)—to design, redesign and rewrite Marxism's holy books, Gods, Saints, Icons and rituals. They rewrote the history books, permanently removing and restocking millions of libraries in schools, etc., and tempered the archives to benefit the legacy of Stalin and the Marxist religion.

The Gods were firmly established. It was the trinity of Marx, Engels and Lenin. They were elevated by Stalin to the status of Gods, with the goal of creating a job for himself as the "Living God" or "Deputy on Earth". Instead of the divine Gods of the old religions (technological advances! different times!), now came the slogans: "Lenin lived, Lenin is alive, Lenin will live forever!"; "Stalin is Lenin today!" Accordingly, the icons were created and their pictures and sculptures in the millions visibly displayed in all government, and public and private places.

The Holy Books

The writings of the Gods were re-edited periodically by the IML. The history of the communist party was re-edited the same way. Tens of millions of copies were issued and distributed, replac-

ing the holy books of old, and destroying the Christian, Muslim and Judaic religions.

Permanent, endless worshipping of the holy books became a must in public places, from cradle to grave. One could not become a doctor, engineer, veterinarian, school graduate, etc., without getting a grade of A in the holy books, a test called the Marxism/Leninism examination.

The Saints

From time to time, the theocratic state elevated or canonized some of its high officials (usually following their death), to the status of Saint. Some were buried in the Kremlin Wall and entitled to be worshipped and iconized.

The Rituals

One of the major rituals occurred twice a year on May 1st and November 7th. It was organized with military precision and discipline and incorporated many icons of Gods and Saints. Slogans promising to work hard and to hate and destroy the West filled the air (much like Iran today). The people marched along the crowded streets under the watchful eyes of the Marxist priests and State autocrats. Participation in these rituals was mandatory . . . or else!

Another significant ritual was called "election." It was organized in a very festive manner. The eligible voters came to the "election poll" on a non-working day. They picked up a ballot, folded it exactly as it was (there was only one name on it, assigned by the authorities) and, avoiding the polling booth, placed it in the polling box. Not to participate in this ritual and/or going into the "polling booth" was very dangerous. It could qualify you as an "enemy of the people" and punishment would be forthcoming.

Of course, participation in such "elections" ranged between 99 and 99.9 percent. The "yes" votes were never less than 98.8

percent and the appointees of the clergy were "passed" by these large numbers. There were refreshments and music at the polls and the "elections" were praised by all as "the most democratic election system in the world!" No one at all objected—it was a ritual!

The most significant ritual, however, was invented in the 1930s. Somewhere, somehow, someone from the upper echelons of power (presumably Stalin and his IML) decided that instead of 200 millions of flock, it would be enough to have 180 million. But this smaller group would be fully submissive, with zero dissenters and 100 percent obedience. So, in the name of God, Stalin made the decision to sacrifice 5 to 10 percent or more of the population in order to strengthen the remaining flock's allegiance to the deputy of Gods on Earth.

Religious sacrifices of humans and animals are certainly not new to the history of religions. Our patriarch Abraham, to prove his faith to God and at His request, sacrificed his son Isaac to death. Fortunately, before he finished his task, God stopped his hand and saved Isaac's life.

Speaking of sacrifices, during the war, Stalin himself sacrificed his own son, Yacob, and God didn't hold his hand back. Yacob, an officer in 1941, became a prisoner of war (POW) in the first months of fighting in the Grand defeat. After the battle of Stalingrad, the Germans offered to exchange Yacob for Field Marshal Paulus, who was also a POW. Stalin's reply was: "I do not exchange soldiers for field marshals." Yacob died in a German prison.

Another example of human sacrifice to God was during the Spanish inquisition in the Middle Ages. In Inquistion #1, thousands of "infidels" were burned alive in public fires. The executor, Torquemado, burned 2,000 people from Spain before the expulsion of 200,000 Jews, who refused to convert to Christianity.

The Inquisition #2, by Stalin in the 1930s, was much broader in terms of numbers of sacrificed victims and their disposal. The USSR was big enough to have many of them "disappear" into Siberia and the Far East—usually forever and with no trace. Families

could not reach their missing members by mail or by phone. They were hard-working slaves until the day that they died.

How was it possible that this ritual—responsible for human sacrifices of the innocent in numbers two to three times greater than Hitler's Holocaust—could go on in times of peace? Where was the justice?

The answer is there was no justice in the USSR at that time, not at least as we understand justice in the West. "Justice" there was carried out in its Marxist definition, as "class justice." There were no elected judges, no juries, no lawyers involved in "political" cases and the public was not allowed to be present. "Troika" (from the word "three") was the judge, prosecutor and often executor. The Troika was assigned at each level of authority by the next supervisor or the secret police. People simply "disappeared" in the night. They were marked as "enemies of the people." That is all we knew.

Much later, after the death of Stalin, I befriended an older, fragile man, Comrade X, who was in his thirties during Inquisition #2. It was he who explained how this ritual worked.

Each local Secret Service Commander called his staff to a secret meeting and assigned each member to deliver to him a certain number (usually two to five) of "enemies of the people." If he failed to deliver, he himself would become an EOP and would be sacrificed in some way.

For each victim he had to prepare a "case," and to prove that case before a Troika—there were other specialized professional "investigators" and "prosecutors." Generally, the victims were forced to plead "guilty" of being spies, etc. Many of them were merely victims of some personal vendetta.

To head up this task, Stalin assigned the Soviet equivalent to the Spanish Torquemado—Chief of USSR Secret Service, Comrade Ezsoff. He gave him broad, unlimited power to kill with assigned numbers of victims. Every day there were rumors of people "disappearing" in the night, seemingly innocent victims. The families were all told they were "enemies of the people" and should not

be contacted in any manner. This period of Russian history was called the Ezsovscina. It lasted until the war started. At the end of the 1930s, Comrade Ezsoff was killed by some of Stalin's men. Quoting Trotsky, who at the time of Ezsoff's death was in exile in Mexico: "The Revolution eats its children."

As I previously mentioned, the families of the victims were ostracized as second class citizens. In all applications for jobs, schools or colleges, they had to answer the standard questions:

"Do you have a repressed jailed relative?"

"Do you have relatives abroad?"

"To what social group do your parents belong?"

The population was forced, under the threat of severe prosecution, to stop all communications with the relative "abroad" and the Iron Curtain became ever thicker and more unpenetrable.

CHAPTER 6

FINANCING MARXISM

It is quite obvious that to finance the task of creating a vast military power, to maintain that big theocratic country, to proselytize Marxism worldwide, Stalin and company needed astronomical funds. How could this problem be addressed in a country of poor people with no foreign trade?

To begin with, Stalin made some "corrections" to Marxist dogma. Gone was the dogma of "abolishing the State." Instead of taking from the "haves" and giving to the "have nots"—that is, giving the land to the peasants and the factories to the workers—all these assets and much more were taken from the owners and confiscated to the State. That meant that the sole property owner, the sole employer in the country (and the largest monopoly in history) was the State. And the State was controlled 100 percent by Stalin, who, in that way, was the sole recipient of all profits of manufacturing, agriculture and services.

Labor lost the competitive edge of free labor markets. The new monopolistic employer—the State—established all pay for labor and, in this way, enjoyed enormous profits, even for inferior quality of goods and services. There were no independent labor unions, no labor strikes: "Employees cannot strike against their country, the Motherland." There were no private enterprises, businesses or trade—no matter how small. There were no private doctors, barber shops, etc. There was no competition to State capitalism.

Private trade was called "speculation" and punishments for participation ranged up to 10 years in prison. The entire popula-

tion was reduced to the status of serfs, with only one owner—the State. The government, in its sole discretion, established the allowances for the serfs, called "salary" or "wages." It also determined the prices for goods and services. No competition existed, either in or outside the country. The only inducement to work hard was the introduction of the pay-by-the-piece system, which replaced the hourly wage. There were day quotas and mandatory minimum outputs. In order to increase the output of the millions of serfs, the quotas were increased each year to reflect the assigned "increase in productivity"—in this way, reducing each year the price paid per piece.

The number of ways the State could profit was unlimited, however, it still was not enough to cover its growing expenses, both home and abroad. To solve this deficit, Stalin introduced yet another method by which the State would profit—the police-enforced "Izyatie Izlishkov" (removal of surpluses). The police made raids in the cities on the former "haves" and confiscated their personal belongings, which, in the opinion of the police, were "surpluses." In the countryside, there was mass removal of grain and food from the "haves"—the good peasants—"to feed the city." This was called "Prod-Rasvyorstka." Some of the best in the countryside population, called "kulaks," were expelled to the Gulags. Any resistance on the part of the people was met with violence, brutality and prosecution.

But Stalin and his huge but inefficient enterprise faced other financial problems. There was a shortage of hard currency (the non-convertible paper Ruble), the quality of the goods created by the serfs was poor, and there was an emerging boycott of Soviet products, created by slave labor, abroad. Stalin did not make enough money to buy the necessary imports for the expanding military and industrial needs of the self-isolated State. Also, foreign communist party heads would not accept Rubles as payment. Hard currency was needed to operate and the existing gold mines, staffed with slave labor, were not delivering enough gold to cover these expenses.

Once again, the solution was a new one in the policy of creating convertible assets (hard currency). It was called "Zolotuha" (Zoloto means gold) and it worked very simply—with a zero justice system.

Usually during the night, some selected people—the former "haves"—were picked up by the Secret Service (the GPU). They were taken into custody and confronted with the following conversation: "Comrade, do you know our State is building communism?" ("Yes, I know.") "For that our State needs a lot of money and you have to help the State by donating your hidden gold and jewelry." (Sometimes actual amounts were stated). "You will be held until you have performed your citizen's duty." Psychological and physical coercion were employed until the comrade revealed the place where he hid his life savings. If the investigator was satisfied with the size of the "donation," the comrade was free to go. If not, he would be subject to longer interrogation.

It was state kidnapping for ransom!

On two occasions, my father-in-law was subjected to the "Zolotuha," until he lost his entire life savings. Because of this hardship, his wife, born of noble extraction in Austria, Vienna, died at the age of 36.

In 1932, my late father, a former businessman, was charged "taxes" 100 times more than he possessed—no justice! All his possessions were confiscated. This was how Stalin made money to proselytize the Marxist religion abroad. This was the "Proletarian World Revolution!"

Across the country, the "Zolotuha" produced more convertible assets than all the gold mines and exports combined. The financial possibilities of the State owning all income-producing properties and businesses—with no justice for the people—were truly unlimited!

CHAPTER 7

UNITING AGAINST HITLER

June to December, 1941:

By June 22, 1941, there was no doubt that Stalin was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. "All that the Great Lenin created, we have lost forever," he cried in despair, locking himself in his study for more than a week.

We can only hope that on his retreat from the world, he used the time to pray to his Gods to forgive his sins: the slaughter and imprisonment of 82,000 of the best commanders and officers on the eve of the war, along with the best and brightest of the population (scientists, intellectuals, peasants); and the mass shipment of strategic materials (food, lumber, steel, etc.) to Germany for the past two years, which stopped several hours after the onset of the war. For all this, only Stalin is to blame.

Stalin's London envoy, Maysky, was unable to reach Stalin for several days to give him the news that Churchill (head of the British Empire, at that time more than one billion strong in population) was ready to help the USSR. While his country waited for him and desperately needed help, the "Deputy of God" was unavailable.

At this crucial time, Molotov, USSR foreign minister, and his staff took on the burden of the war. The population did not want to become slaves of Hitler, remembering in their collective memory the 240 years of slavery under Chingis Khan (the Mongols). Hitler promised his people—the "chosen race"—in his "Mein Kampf" (my fight), "a thousand years of the Third Reich" for a Germany stretching to the

Ural Mountains. He also promised them that the only surviving Russians would be Russian slaves: "The best Russian is a dead Russian." Moscow, Kiev, Odessa and other big Russian cities had to disappear from the map and be "leveled to the ground."

Because of this, finally the interests of Stalin and his followers and those of the Russian people coincided—in an attempt to survive! First what was needed was unity under an appealing banner. And with the Germans moving toward Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev at the speed of 25 to 30 miles a day—with almost no resistance—there was no time for inner struggles. It was decided that the most suitable banner was Stalin, the Prime Minister and First Secretary of the communist party—the "Deputy of God on Earth."

Molotov and his staff prepared a speech for Stalin to read to the people. It was the first time he was heard on the radio since the war began—on July 3. He began his speech by saying, "Comrades, citizens, brothers and sisters! Soldiers and sailors! It is to you, my dear friends, that I am speaking." He went on to actually ask for forgiveness and for unity against the danger of the Hitler invasion.

Stalin had never spoken in such a manner before, and never did so again. In his speech, Stalin deliberately lied about how the German invaders had been crushed in the occupied territories. Generally, however, it was a good speech. From now on, the unifying banner would be: "For Stalin and the Motherland!" which replaced the World War I banner of "For Czar and the Motherland." Also added was, "Death to the German invaders."

And it worked wonders for the morale of the country. Also because of this, Churchill and Roosevelt offered and delivered massive aid to the USSR.

Unfortunately, Stalin became Koba again, searching for generals as scapegoats, arresting and executing them so he could transfer blame for the Great Defeat. And just as he had once elevated himself from the number four position in the Soviet hierarchy to number one, he now managed to nullify his defeats and rise to Commander number one, Fieldmarshal, Generalisimus and partner to Churchill and Roosevelt.

CHAPTER 8

THE TABLES ARE TURNED

In November, the siege of Moscow began, with the Germans 20 miles from the city. Hitler promised his people a triumphant parade in Moscow, but that didn't happen. The Soviets now acquired a new, powerful ally—"General Winter." Freezing temperatures, snow and bad roads for their wheeled transports all took a toll on the German offensive, and they were stopped by the end of November. The Soviet counter-offensive on the Moscow front began December 6th, 1941 with the Soviets stopping the Germans and retaking almost one fifth of lost territory.

Also of importance, was that during this period, Stalin temporarily stopped putting forth his Marxist doctrines. This was necessary to achieve unity in the country and in appreciation of the West's support and his new alliance with Western democracies. He dissolved the Comintern to appease the West and renamed the Red Army the Soviet Army—introduced a new military uniform and new military ranks similar to those in the former Tzarist Army—to create some hope for the soldiers that they would become a part of the free democratic society after the war.

The resistance of the Soviet forces became stronger, due in part to increased supplies from the West and the patriotism and determination of the Soviet people. Also, the Germans were now vulnerable due to the harsh winter. They lacked winter warfare experience, as well as the proper clothing. Hitler had promised to end the war before winter began, but instead of blitz-krieg, the

war was prolonged and became a nightmare for the German military command.

The counter-offensive on the Moscow front shattered Hitler's concept of Blitzkrieg, converting it to a prolonged second front for Germany and giving the Soviets the time to create and equip new armies east of the Ural Mountains and rebuild and replace the military infrastructure. After losing the battle against Britain and Moscow, Hitler changed the direction of his offensive to the south—to the Ukraine, Stalingrad and Caucasus (1942).

The Soviets, however, suffered tremendous losses in their military troops. Along with those killed or taken prisoner were countrymen who had experienced Stalin's atrocities and now decided to collaborate with the Germans. The German propaganda was "Kill the Jews and the Communists." This philosophy of divide and conquer created anti-Soviet military formations, police.

This enormous loss of Soviet manpower created problems in the formation of new armies in the East. Almost all of the civilian jobs were held by women and the elderly. Because of this, the Soviets decided to tap an unexpected pool of human resources—the approximately 10 to 20 million slave laborers who had been enslaved in the Gulags, the victims of Inquisition #2, some four to 10 years ago.

These were excellent human assets. Most of these prisoners were former high or middle military commanders, such as Marshal Zsukov and Marshal Rocossovsky, World War II heroes. They were also scientists, former property and business owners, industrialists, and successful peasants ("kulaks"). Their collective IQ was higher than that of the "free population." They called the rest of the USSR "The Big Earth."

Josef Flavy, the ancient historian, famous writers Ezop and Solzhenitsin, and Commander Spartac were also slaves.

While in the Gulags, the prisoners developed their own culture, poetry and music and were very patriotic. They believed that they were victims of miscarried justice and were able to exist this way in captivity. Now they were given the chance—their only option—to fight the Germans in the most dangerous places, as

foot soldiers. The ones who survived would be allowed to return home to their families.

These were the gladiators of the 20th Century. They created the so-called "penal companies," which had to "wash off their guilt with their blood" before their Motherland.

The penal companies were incorporated in the infantry regimens and sent out on the most dangerous military tasks—sometimes replacing tanks or destroying German tanks, bunkers, etc., cleaning German-installed minefields. Even a small injury to a gladiator was enough to exonerate him.

Another unique military formation devised at the time were the "anti-deserter detachments." These formations were designed not only against the penal companies, but also against all other military personnel. These men were stationed behind the front lines and ordered to shoot anyone who turned their back to the enemy and ran away or hid from battle. There were also soldiers with self-inflicted injuries, whose purpose was to leave the battlefront. All these deserters were routinely executed on the plazas with many of the military present.

The war continued, with the Germans trying to conquer the southern assets of the USSR—the breadbaskets, oil fields, etc. The crashing defeat of the German forces in the battle of Stalingrad was the turning point of the war. It put the Germans on the defense and caused them to suffer subsequent bigger losses, both military and psychological.

In the biggest world history battles of World War II, the USSR was alone. There was no second front yet on the Western site. The war began June, 1941; the D-Day second front on the West was in Normandy in June, 1944. At the time, the Soviet army was on German borders. The distant, and small operations of our allies in North Africa only irritated our soldiers. It was viewed as an attempt on the part of Churchill to avoid direct military engagement in western Europe—that is, opening the second front. Also, it was looked at as an attempt to let Hitler and Stalin exhaust each other—despite appeals from the USSR dating from July 1941.

Moscow 1944

From that time, we, all of us, each and every day, expected our allies to open the second front. As the months and years passed—and we continued to fight Hitler alone—there was a nagging bitterness, a sense of betrayal, and the conviction that the West was buying our blood and lives for canned food and military supplies. We felt we were the mercenaries of the West.

In 1944, returning from the hospital in Caucasus to my new assignment, the second Byelorussia front (in then captured Poland), via Moscow, I had the opportunity to attend a reception. It was held in the famous Moscow Hall of Columns and featured the famous writer and journalist, Ilya Ehrenburg, with the leading diplomatic corps (mostly allies and military personnel).

In his speech, Ehrenburg proclaimed: "Stalingrad is not La Manche (British Channels, J.G.) that you cannot pass during this bloody two years, when we grind and destroy so many German armies. Start the second front and the war will be over soon!"

Ehrenburg was a permanent fixture during the war, it was impossible to separate the two. He killed more occupants with his pen, then many Generals did with their fire power. He was the Soviet equivalent of Gebbels, the German propaganda minister, but without ministerial portfolio. Reading his articles was a must for the military on the eve of every military offensive. It was his posters all over the cities and villages, with a child asking his father: "Daddy, kill a German!"

CHAPTER 9

SUMMER, 1942 TO WINTER, 1943

Hitler, now convinced that this would be a prolonged war, sent his armies to the southeast in order to cut off supplies of food and oil and conquer Ukraine and north Caucasus. The Germans reached Volga, a few miles north of Stalingrad (now Volgograd), where Battle #1 of World War II began to capture the city. Although his offensive in that direction was justified—he intended to suffocate Moscow through hunger and lack of strategic supplies—his fierce battle for that city was opposed by many of his own military advisors, who insisted that Stalingrad had no strategic value, only liabilities. They believed the same goal could be achieved by cutting off supply routes south of Stalingrad without engaging, in the winter, his forces in street battles and totally destroying the city—and with it, his best 6th Army (Paulus). The prolonged and bloody battle for Stalingrad, street by street, house by house, ruins by ruins, in the harsh winter of 1942 to '43, took a tremendous toll on the Paulus 6th Army, shattering faith in Hitler and inflicting on the Germans the taste of defeat.

The blunder of targeting and destroying that big city, grinding it to the ground, was motivated not by sound military strategy, but by emotion, by the name of the city—Stalin's city. Unlike Stalin, who learned a hard lesson from the defeats in 1941 and thereafter followed the suggestions of his military advisors, Hitler ignored his military advisors. He ignored them when he started the war with the Soviets and left Moscow alone, which was not

The author, South of Stalingrad in January, 1943

only the capital but also a political center and the hub of all Soviet rail and auto communications. Instead, he sacrificed many of his best German forces to destroy a city of no strategic importance. For Stalin, defense of Stalingrad was not only emotional (for the same reason), but it also allowed him to destroy valuable German military forces in lengthy street battles, more familiar to Russian military expertise. In addition, it gave him time to begin to encircle the 6th German Army in Stalingrad.

The defenders of Stalingrad under Army General Chuikov, Commander of the 62nd Army (and later my Army Chief in Poland) were issued orders such as, "Fight or die!"; "Before you die, kill a German with your teeth, if necessary!" There was no other way to handle the situation. In the back, were the high banks of the Volga River—no retreat was possible.

On November 19, the Soviet counter-offensive began. General Zhukov, with perhaps one million troops on three fronts, forced the surrender of the German 6th Army (Paulus).

Hitler, rebuffing his military advisors and indicating that no German Fieldmarshal had ever surrendered, compelled Paulus to fight to the death—by assigning him the title of Field marshal!

Our entire military college participated in that offensive under Zhukov's command.

There was no formal surrender. Instead Fieldmarshal Paulus and his entire staff went into captivity. Twenty-four German generals, 180,000 officers and soldiers (survivors of the original 300,000) became prisoners of war. All but the generals were sent via forced marches to prison camps in Siberia, where the vast majority perished of hard labor and epidemics. Only 6,000 survived the war.

Hitler proclaimed four mourning days all over Germany to memorialize the defeat and loss of the 6th Army. It was January, 1943.

After my assignment to the 4th Ukrainian front, during the Soviet offensive on the city of Herson (120 miles east of my birthplace, Odessa), I was injured on November 23, 1943, by a sniper—

The author in Koenigsberg in 1945

The author in Moscow in 1944

one bullet through my chest. At the time, I was Chief of Staff of the Infantry Battalion in the 2nd Guard Army, 5th Guard Division.

Ultimately, I was sent for treatment and recovery to a hospital on the Caucasus, Kislovodsk. It took me five months to recover—a time I also used to perfect my knowledge of the German language, something that would help me in my future military service.

After recovering, I was assigned to the 2nd Byelorussia front, 50th Army, under the command of General Chuikov, the Stalingrad legend. We were stationed in North Poland (city of Brest), and poised for an offensive on East Prussia, the eastern part of Germany between Poland and the Baltic Sea. Its capital was Koenigsberg.

Finally, after three years of bloody fighting, we approached German proper. Vengeance and revenge were the main fighting stimulus for our soldiers. Every one of them had lost families, friends, and relatives to these invaders of our country. The slogan, "Death of the German occupants," began to materialize on German land.

The commissars (Marxist clergy) instructed our advancing troops: "We were entering the den of the beast. All persecutors are on vacation."

The atrocities of our trigger-happy soldiers were incredible, not only against humans, but everything—pets, livestock, furniture—anything German. And it was impossible to contain. The remaining civilian population— woman, children and seniors—paid the price, especially in this part of Germany that Stalin intended (and did) divide between the USSR and Poland.

Genocide was his policy here and it was an effective one!

The Germans attempted to evacuate the civilian population from Koenigsberg in big, endless convoys, to the north (German territory) via the ice-covered Baltic Sea (Frish Haffen). The ice was strong enough to hold the many thousands of people with their belongings and transportation—but not strong enough to withstand the intense and deliberate pounding it took from Soviet artillery shells. It crushed the ice and sent the Germans to the bottom of the sea.

This area is now called the "Kalingrad Region" and it belongs to Russia.

I was injured the second time half-way to the capital of Koenigsberg, with a fragment in my upper jaw. After spending two months in a field hospital, I recovered and returned to my regiment. It was just before the assault of Koenigsberg, a mighty city fortress, surrounded by 12 smaller fortresses and mine fields, that the Germans decided to defend. Our 50th Army encircled them and there was no escape. The assault had begun.

Two months lasted the delivery of artillery and munitions supplies, and these munitions were discharged on the city in two hours of intense bombardment, destruction of the city and fortifications. Afterwards, 2,000 British and American allied aircraft raids bombed Koenigsberg. Following that, we started our own ground offensive.

The surviving Germans surrendered.

In Koenigsberg in April, 1945, I finished the war. On May 2, Berlin was captured by the Soviets. Full capitulation of Germany followed on May 8.

I was 25 at that time.

That same May, officers with a good knowledge of the German language—including me—were sent to Moscow to the Military Academy for foreign language study (VNIAZ), to prepare for prolonged occupation duties in Germany.

For the first time during the entire war, I was permitted, for six days, to go to Odessa to be with my wife and daughter (who had returned from middle Asia). I was able to recover our pre-war apartment for them. That is, I evicted the German collaborators and put my family back where they belonged.

It was a miracle!

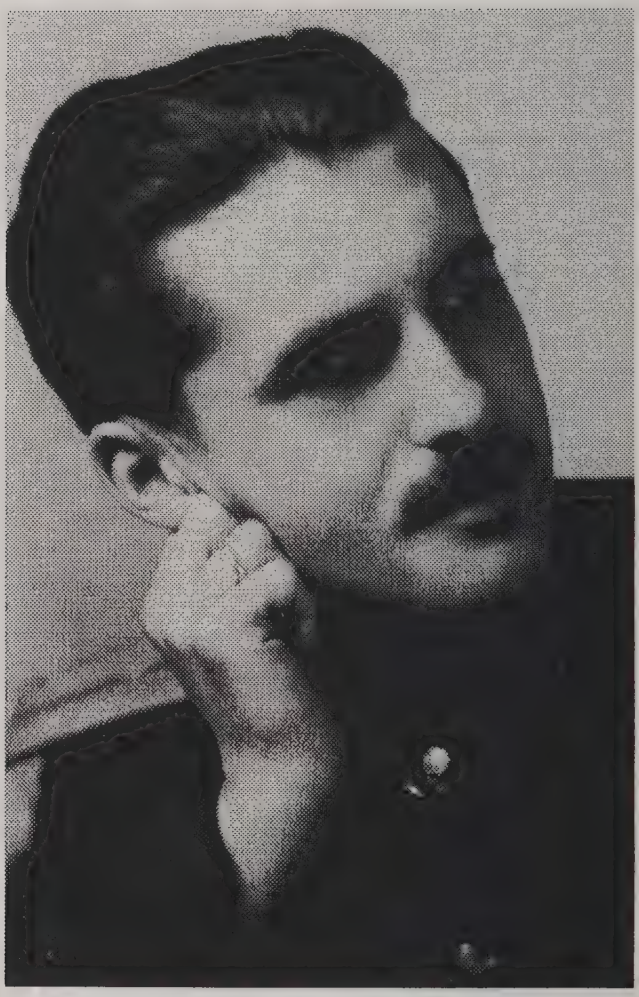
CHAPTER 10

THE HOLOCAUST AND ANTI-SEMITISM

As an eye witness, I can confirm that there was no anti-Semitism before World War II. This was because of the international emphasis of Marxism at that time. The Communist International (Comintern) called for world revolution. The approximately 120,000 Jewish population of Odessa enjoyed four Jewish schools, two Jewish colleges, Jewish theater, Jewish newspapers, a Jewish museum and Jewish agricultural businesses. The number one leader of the Odessa region was Jewish Comrade Weger. Many academics, industry managers, etc., were also Jewish. At the start of World War II—many of us—all eligible men—were called up for military service and we later became officers, generals and commissars.

But at the beginning of the war in 1941-42, most European USSR Jewish populated centers, with the exception of Moscow and Leningrad, were occupied by the Nazis. The bulk of the Jewish population now became the victims of Nazi atrocities.

There were no gas chambers at that time (the gas Ziclop-B was developed in 1942). The high-tech, "environmental friendly", efficient, low-cost "per unit" technology to dispose of undesirable human beings—to recycle them into carbon dioxide—was introduced in late 1942 in Poland. Looking ahead, that "humans recycling" enterprise was closed at the end of 1944—and not because Adolf Hitler's repentance—there were more compelling reasons—the Soviet Army at that time entered East Poland in a West offen-



The author in Berlin in 1945

sive. I myself was stationed in North Poland city of Brest at that time. So the extermination of the "Jews and communists" was by execution—the "old fashioned way"—the "Baby Yar" stile (Kiev). Each occupied city (small or large), each village, had their own "Baby Yar," that gathered all of the Jewish population—with the help of local collaborators and the police—and executed them by firing squads. Mass graves were assembled all over the occupied sections of the USSR.

Some Jews were saved by local friends, Russian people, even though it was dangerous and, if discovered, punishable by death. My friends, Mr. and Mrs. Chaimsky, were in such hiding with the help of their Russian rescuer until the Soviet army liberated the city in April, 1944. That was about three years! Others, seeking to escape and fight the Nazis, went to the underground Resistance, the "partisans," and fought the Germans—or died—until the Soviet army came back.

One of my relatives who was also a Soviet officer, while passing through Odessa in the 1944 offensive, asked for a day off to visit his pre-war residence there. Neighbors informed him that his parents had been delivered to the Germans by the building manager. He proceeded to find the manager and executed him himself. Upon return to his regiment, he explained to his commander what had transpired and received his okay. This was routine at that time—no court. If you killed a Nazi collaborator, it was fine.

But times change. As it often happened in past wars, the victor takes over the Bible of the conquered. That, for example, was the case of the Roman conquest of the Holy Land two millenniums ago. After the destruction of the Second Temple, they took over the Bible of the conquered—and that was the beginnings of Christianity.

After conquering Berlin in 1945, Stalin, re-taking tens of millions of former Soviet citizens who had been brainwashed for two to three years with Nazi propaganda, took over their Bible—Hitler's Bible of "Mein Kampf", with its emphasis on anti-Semitism and racial superiority. He simply replaced the word "German" with the word "Russian."

In this way, "Socialism" became "National Socialism," more commonly known as "Fascism."

All of the Soviet people were astonished when immediately after the war victory, Stalin delivered a speech at the graduation of the High Commanders of the prestigious Moscow Military Academy. In this speech, Stalin expressed thanks to the "great Russian people" for their confidence and trust to the "party" during the war (Stalin was Georgian, not Russian).

Stalin's speech, explosive by itself—he never appealed to the people other than the "Soviet people,"—of which the Russian population represents only half. All the Soviet people were considered "brothers" and from then on, it appeared there were "equal brothers" and "more equal brothers." (From this point on, the Russians were treated as superiors).

This is what the Soviet people had fought for, suffered and died for all that time?

The second encounter with Hitler's legacy was at the VNIAZ in Moscow in July, 1945. In attendance were almost 1,000 Soviet students, decorated veteran officers fluent in German. Approximately half of them were Jewish. The Jewish language (Yiddish) was similar to German, being one of the German dialects. The VNIAZ had received an order from the Military Command to assign 20 to 25 officers for translating positions to the Berlin prosecutor's office—a very prestigious assignment. When the candidates for these positions were called out, there was not one Jewish officer among them! It caused great resentment among us. It was a sign of a significant shift of the official policy in the wrong direction—to discrimination. This was a sign, not only to the affected officers, but was a message to the "beneficiaries" of that policy change, the Russian officers.

And so the State began its new policy of anti-Semitism. To camouflage this change, new synonyms for Jews were invented—"Zionists," "Cosmopolits"—that is, people without a Motherland. The country's "secret directives" now established severe restrictions on the acceptance of Jews to universities, important government positions in industry, management, education, etc.

The campaign against the Jews intensified, and Stalin decided to move toward the next step—his version of the "final solution."

This was not unique for Stalin. He already had experience in this after the war, when he deported the entire population of the Ingush-Chechen region (Republic) to Soviet Asia for alleged collaboration with the Germans. In this same fashion, the entire population of the German Autonomous Republic on the Volga River was deported. Then followed the deportation of all the Tatar people from Krimea, liquidating the Tatar Soviet (Krimea) Republic entirely. In 1948, there was the deportation of the Greek Nationals.

Now it was the Jewish population's turn.

It was a big task for Stalin, because this population was a significant part of the establishment—party functionaries, military, industrial and cultural personnel. But nothing was going to stop Stalin, he simply needed more time to accomplish his task. And he loved "big projects."

He arrested and killed the leading Jewish writers, poets, educators and actors, including Mihoels, the famous Moscow actor. He killed all the cultural elite of the Jewish people in secret "disappearances." He killed all the Jewish world-famous intellectuals under fabricated "demand" letters from military officers and others, that accused the victims of "Zionism." To his credit, Ehrenburg refused to sign these letters, but his international standing saved him from Stalin's retribution. He died later from "natural causes."

For public relation purposes in the country and abroad (there were now many communist parties and countries), Stalin ordered the arrest of the most prominent Jewish medical personnel and included one to two non-Jews to cover up his deed. They used the fabricated "case" of plotting to poison him and other Kremlin inhabitants. This started the famous "Doctors' case" with vicious propaganda against the entire Jewish population. Russian people now became afraid to use Jewish medical personnel for medical treatment. The anti-cosmopolits rhetoric and actions in a country with no justice and no way out for the Jews (a closed Iron Curtain) became very dangerous after the German Holocaust.

Now there began rumors of the preparation of railroads for deportation of the Jews to the Far East—the so-called Jewish region of Birobijan. This was a piece of land on the Amur River, designated by Stalin to be the homeland of the Jews in the early '30s. But the area attracted only a small number of Jews, less than 2 percent. No more than 15 to 20 percent of the local population were Jews; the rest were mainly Russians. Ironically, the official language in that region was Yiddish. Hebrew and Judaism, however, were prohibited. The region was mostly under-developed and had a harsh climate and mosquitoes.

On the long journey to the Far East (three to four weeks on railroads), "angry" Russian people plus hunger and epidemics, supposed to reduce the Jewish population dramatically. This was Stalin's "Jewish solution," and one that he most eagerly pursued.

Only the death of that monster in 1953 saved the Jewish population of the USSR from extinction, from a second Holocaust. It was God's message and this time, God stopped his hand—forever!

After Stalin's death, the "Doctors' case" was closed in silence, but all the anti-Jewish propaganda and restrictions were not. It was partly also blamed for the State of Israel's refusal to become a satellite state of the USSR, like many eastern European countries.

The author with his wife, Valentina, and their child, Lialla. Weimar, Germany, 1946

CHAPTER 11

MY BIG MISTAKE

It was at this time that I recognized the biggest mistake I ever made in my life. I missed a golden opportunity during 1945 to 1947, when I worked for the Soviet Military Administration in Germany as an engineer for the economic department, after being assigned to that position from VNIAZ, in Weimar, Turingen. My wife and daughter (then about two years old) were with me. Every officer was required to bring his family because they were forbidden to become involved with the German women. Our duties were the maximum extraction of goods from the defeated Germany's factories for reparations to the USSR. Entire factories were dismantled and sent to the USSR. At that time, there were no borders in Berlin. There was open and free movement, the Berlin Wall being built much later.

Prompted now by the "shop window war," East Germans routinely moved to the West. Initially the population was distributed evenly—50 percent in the East and 50 percent in West Germany. Now the population was moving to the West, and with them some Soviets; there were 20 million in the East and 60 million in the West. In 1985, there were 17 million in East Germany and 85 million in West Germany. This is why the Berlin Wall was built!

We visited West Berlin routinely by car, train and the Metro. The freeways from Turingen to our Berlin office (Karlshorst) ran through American and British zones, with borders on the maps only. It was at this time that the abundant, attractive shop windows in West Berlin were compared to the empty, miserable shop windows in East Berlin.

Movement between the two parts of Berlin was easy and offered no risks. There was ground and air transportation to the free world from West Berlin. This movement included some Soviet military personnel—smarter than I—who escaped to the West. One day, my colleague from Moscow, Nikolay Novikov, didn't come to work. A few days later, he called me from Gamburg, West Germany, on the Baltic Sea. He told me that he wasn't going to return and suggested I do the same with my family. There were plenty of such opportunities. However, I did not take advantage of them. We believed that the alliance with the West would prompt radical changes in the USSR.

We were wrong.

For a very long time I was depressed. I could not forgive myself that my mistake cost me and my family an additional 28 years of captivity in the USSR. And, at the time, it looked like it would last hundreds of years. There was no relief in sight!

But a miracle happened again, something we never even dreamed of before 1970. The Lautenberg-Jackson Amendment to the US-USSR Trade Agreement was passed in U.S. Congress. It made it contingent for steady grain and other commodities to be exported from the US to the USSR that allowed for the emigration of the Soviet Jewish population to Israel and other countries.

And it worked! Experiencing shortages in commodities, especially food, the USSR began—in small quantities—to release their Jewish serfs in 1970-71. Although it was with great difficulty, Exodus number two had begun! And it helped both the housing and food shortages in the USSR.

Jews as hostages for ransom also became a commodity for exchange for Soviet satellite states. So, in Romania, under Chaushescu, a convertible currency price for each head (Jewish émigré) was established.

And this exodus of Jews started the biggest miracle of our lives!

Economic Department of Occupation Forces,
Weimar, 1945

CHAPTER 12

ASSIMILATION

Consider these incredible numbers: Before World War II began in June of 1941, the Jewish population of the USSR was approximately five million (2.5 percent of the entire population). After the war, that number was reduced to approximately three million and after the collapse of the USSR, it was less than one million. These numbers cannot be verified precisely—there were no verifiable sources for that—only vague, state-influenced periodic censuses, but they are accurate enough to reflect the trends. The loss of more than two million Jews during the war can be attributed to 1.5 million lost in the Holocaust and more than 500,000 fatalities to Jewish members of the military. But what about the other two million? Approximately half were due to the de facto State-induced assimilation.

Denied their own religion, language, culture and history due to State authorized anti-Semitism and enduring job and educational discrimination for the same reason, many Jews were prompted to eliminate the only link left to their Jewish identity—the word "Jewish" on their passports. Replaced with "Russian" or something else, they became "equal" to the rest of the USSR population.

And where there is a will, there is a way and, in this case, many ways. Love and affection were not the only reasons for mixed marriages in the USSR. It was also a sure way to lose your Jewish identity—as self-defense—at least for their children. So widespread was the practice that it worked until the early 1970s, the start of

the Exodus. The other one million Jews left the USSR during the Exodus.

But now there was widespread resentment among the gentile population of the USSR (99 percent of the people). They felt it unfair that the Jews had the "privilege" to pierce the Iron Curtain, but they did not. Before the Exodus, it was possible for birds only—not for human beings. And, according to the official propaganda—and the strict enforcement of it—no one wanted to move from this "communist haven" to "capitalist hell." All relatives who were abroad were "lost." There were no mail or telephone communications, it was considered "spying." Marriage to foreign nationals was illegal.

The country was covered with expensive structures (a Soviet invention) that blocked incoming broadcasts from abroad. Television was local only. There was no foreign media—newspapers or magazines—accessible to the public. This was the essence of the definition of the "Iron Curtain." And now, suddenly, one percent of the population had a loophole—a legal emigration entitlement! The Jewish identity declaration on paragraph 5 of the passport became an asset—and a big one—not a liability! And now assimilation was replaced by reverse assimilation!

People with Jewish roots, no matter how small and questionable, began to restore their identities on their passports. And once again, mixed marriage became a way out of that "paradise"—even at the price of fictitious or temporary marriages. Spouses and their relatives cannot be separated in emigration because of mixed marriages. But this was not reflected in the census, as the increase in the Jewish population affected only those who were leaving the country.

Higher living and social standards in Israel, from where the only demands in the USSR were processed for emigration—supposedly from "relatives" and "family reunification," and instant citizenship eligibility under the "Law of Return" (including non-Jewish spouses and relatives); State of Israel subsidies for the new immigrants; retraining, job and housing help; and the emerging, growing, lucrative—and competitive—"conversion to Judaism"

business—all contributed to this reverse assimilation phenomenon. It was unique in history and instrumental in Israel becoming (after the U.S.) the largest Russian-speaking Diaspora in the world. It is more than one million strong and is rapidly growing, with cultural, trade, tourism and similar connections to the former Soviet Empire States.

Reverse assimilation—history's irony!

And that is the trend.

CHAPTER 13

THE EVIL EMPIRE: 1917-1991

President Ronald Reagan referred to the USSR as "The Evil Empire."

Convincing his military commanders to start the war against the USSR, Adolf Hitler termed the USSR "Colossus on Clay Legs."

Both were right, but these were emotional determinations only.

What was the real reason for the strength and vitality of the "Evil Empire?"

Stalinism was not created in a vacuum. He himself never killed or executed anyone. However, he did plan the executions of large groups of people in the privacy of his office. Who were his accomplices and collaborators?

As previously mentioned, he dismissed, executed or incarcerated approximately 82,000 of his best high military commanders in the Red Army—one way or another—on the eve of the war. By this action alone, he created 82,000 vacancies in the military, which he promptly filled with inferior commanders, but those who were highly loyal to him. These loyal commanders received the high salaries and high influence jobs.

By eliminating millions of private entrepreneurs (the "haves"), he created millions of vacancies in industry, trade, agriculture positions he proceeded to fill with State bureaucrats on State payrolls, who depended on his patronage for their relatively high salaries, perks, privileges, and social status. Their loyalty to Stalin en-

titled them to maintain their positions. To keep them in line, Stalin created the Marxist clergy—the "commissars" and "party secretaries"—in the army, factories, etc. Trotsky, in exile, called them "the ruling class" quite correctly.

Members of the ruling class and blind believers were included in the "communist party." This was not a political party, as there were no political parties in any one-party state. This was the gentry, nobility and clergy—the elite of that society—that were created to faithfully serve the State and Stalin. One could not be a general, platoon commander, factory manager, etc., without belonging to the communist party. And the elite were loyal to and fearful of Stalin, as their benefactor, their Deputy of God(s) on earth.

It was from this pool of manpower that he chose his executors, prosecutors, secret service and other tools of oppression. This was his social support, his loyalists. Some reached the top of this Marxist ladder—the highest priests and bureaucrats. They were called the "Nomenclatura," that is, those who cannot be fired from their positions, but simply rotate from one position to another for life, no matter what their abilities might be. In this way, the so-called Gerontocracy (see L. Breshnev) was created. Often, these people were related (nepotism).

The magnitude of his social support is explainable also because of the absence of any organized opposition. Any hint of opposition was toppled in blood, any likely opposition deprived of financial support. The former "haves" became "have nots," ostracized, second class citizens on the edge of extinction; liquidated as a class.

In all of USSR history, there were no strikes, free trade unions, etc. By rumors only and never published in the media (a government monopoly), there was only one wild strike known to me, after World War II, in the city of Pervomaisk. The workers marched in the streets, not to demand higher wages, but simply to protest the annual decrease of pay-per-piece payments (usually every April).

There was a blood bath, which involved the regular military.

All city officials, secret police, etc., were dismissed and replaced. Scapegoats were arrested for not "educating" the public well enough.

Monopolist State capitalism, protected the government from competition, and the Iron Curtain, which cut the USSR off from the world economically, created permanent "temporary" shortages. There was great poverty and rationing of food with food cards. It became obvious that State capitalism did not work. With a density of 20 to 22 people per square mile, the USSR became a big importer of grain (food). Before World War I, Russia had been the biggest exporter of these commodities. The inefficiency of that State-owned economy created a tremendous demand for private enterprises and trade—despite the State criminalizing them.

And Demand creates Supply.

Underground private enterprises began to flourish all over the country, creating additional commodities, especially in agriculture, and improving the living conditions of the population—despite the dangers of criminal prosecution.

The underground economy flourished in different ways, sometimes with the State bureaucrat's quiet approval as silent partner and/or protector. This was the only way for the population to survive and it saved the country from starvation. Of course, these de facto economic systems cannot exist without corruption. The ruling elite was involved (and benefited from) this mixed economy—unique in the history of mankind—due also to the spectacular increase in the numbers of the State bureaucracy (the main beneficiaries of the corruption). There was a tremendous demand growing for corruption.

And Demand creates Supply.

Corruption was now raised to the status of a powerful industry—the Corruption industry. The ruling class had a new commodity to sell and barter with—favoritism, loyalty and cover-up for private businesses.

Ironically, the creation and growth of the corruption industry was a blessing at the time because it was the only remedy to counter the inefficiency of State capitalism and it increased the supply of

commodities and services to the population, especially in agricultural products. The inefficient State capitalist economy was only able to cover the living expenses of the population in the cities: 30 to 60 percent, in agribusiness only 15 to 20 percent. The balance was supplied by the illegal private economy.

The Gulags and prisons started to increase their populations with "economic prisoners"—slave labor on a rotating basis. But because of the large demand, these prosecutions did not stop the underground economy, which was more flexible and effective. Along with the corruption industry, it became a way of life in the USSR for several decades, creating tolerable living standards and affecting the collective mind of the people—What is moral? What is legal? This is why Hitler presented the USSR to his military as a "colossus on clay legs"—because it had a non-working, ineffective economic system.

What happened to Stalin after his death?

Stalin was put to rest in Lenin's mausoleum side-by-side to Lenin in an attempt to elevate him to the status of a God, subject to worship. There was also some speculation that it was because of his comrades' fears of his possible resurrection. This, however, did not last very long.

In 1955, Khrushchev delivered a bombshell, a secret letter to the party—not to the people! In the letter, he exonerated the party (and his comrades) by disclosing the atrocities of Inquisition #2. He did this in horrid detail, and pointed to the scapegoat—Stalin—as being totally responsible. Posthumously, Stalin became the scapegoat and was removed from Lenin's Mausoleum and buried in the Kremlin Wall. His comrades emerged exonerated and clean. Also exonerated were the many victims of their crimes, mostly posthumously.

The secret letter was a carefully calculated political action.

In the aftermath of the Nuremberg Trial, where the USSR was a co-plaintiff, co-prosecutors (together with Britain, the United States and France) of Hitler's accomplices in crimes against humanity were convicted to hanging and the Nazi party was con-

victed as a criminal organization. The accomplices of now deceased Stalin, responsible for many more innocent victims than Hitler, escaped their historical, political and criminal responsibility by creating a redeemer—Stalin—for all their sins. Crimes against humanity were exonerated, by simply shifting all the crimes to Stalin and away from themselves. In addition, they reduced Stalin's status from God to Saint, attaching to their atrocities the label, "Stalin's cult of personality."

As it turned out, my late father was correct before the war when he said, "They are criminals."

And I was wrong.

CHAPTER 14

THE DEATH OF THE EVIL EMPIRE

Another miracle!

Isn't it strange that a super power, equipped with such nuclear capabilities to launch on a much feared Armageddon, was born and gained power through violence and crimes against humanity, only to crumble in 1991 under the weight of its own sins and crimes?

The demise of the USSR followed the crumbling of the Berlin Wall and happened with almost no violence at all. In this scenario, the redeemers of nations were, in my judgment, the distinguished and great men, President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Michael Gorbachev.

Reagan started the arms race (Star Wars, etc.) and convinced that in this way his adversaries, including Gorbachev, would realize that their weak closed economy was not a match for the U.S. and its allies.

And it worked.

Gorbachev was not qualified to perform the main ritual of Marxism—the sacrifice of millions of humans in order to maintain the theocratic state. He was more idealistic and liberal. He dreamed of "communism with a human face" in the USSR, and ordered a policy of publicity (openness) and restructuring (eliminating the existing system of oppression).

But "communist State" and "human face" are not compatible.

They don't mix, like water and fire! The new policy of publicity (free speech) was a bombshell to that totalitarian society.

It became evident that the USSR was not a free union of nations, but rather a prison of nations. And this union disintegrated into 15 separate and independent states, almost without violence, simply by restructuring. The USSR ceased to exist, as did Mr. Gorbachev's job.

He became unemployed.

In the early 1990s, Gorbachev and his wife Raisa visited Israel (on a private visit) to receive a private foundation's humanitarian award (grant). He visited the grave of Jesus Christ. On this occasion, his speech was short: "The last communist visited that place to pay respect to the first communist."

Was this an acknowledgment by Gorbachev that the Marxist religion, initiated many centuries before Karl Marx was even born, was an aberration—or mutation—of early Christianity? ("Love your neighbor like yourself"— Christianity; "Hate your neighbor if he is better off"—Marxism.)

In any event, Gorbachev was wrong in that speech. He was definitely not the last communist. As a religion, Marxism will surely enter the third millennium, penetrating and destabilizing democratic societies (including the U.S.), albeit sometimes under different names and slogans.

EPILOGUE

THE BOTTOM LINE

The Bad News

We are the generation that was subjected to and witnessed the creation of and the conversion into the Marxist faith (New World religion) of hundreds of millions of believers, mostly of forced conversions.

We were the generation that was subject to the Inquisition #2, with tens of millions of victims.

We are the generation that was used as guinea pigs in a failed social experiment involving more than one billion people and that lasted almost all of the 20th Century.

We are the generation that suffered the atrocities of the biggest war in the history of mankind.

We are the generation that experienced the brutality of —to my knowledge—the only State Capitalist Monopoly in the history of mankind with the ficticious business name "Socialism" attached to it.

The Good News

We are the generation who destroyed the bulk of the German military forces—the most elite of them—before D-Day in Normandy on July 6, 1944. We made D-Day possible; surrounded and captured Berlin; forced Hitler, the biggest criminal in world history, together with his new bride Eve Brown and their dog, to

commit suicide in their captured Berlin bunker, paying the ultimate price for his crimes.

The good news is that miracles do happen!

And miracles happen to us. We were the lucky ones!

We are among those who survived.

Yes, we are the survivors!

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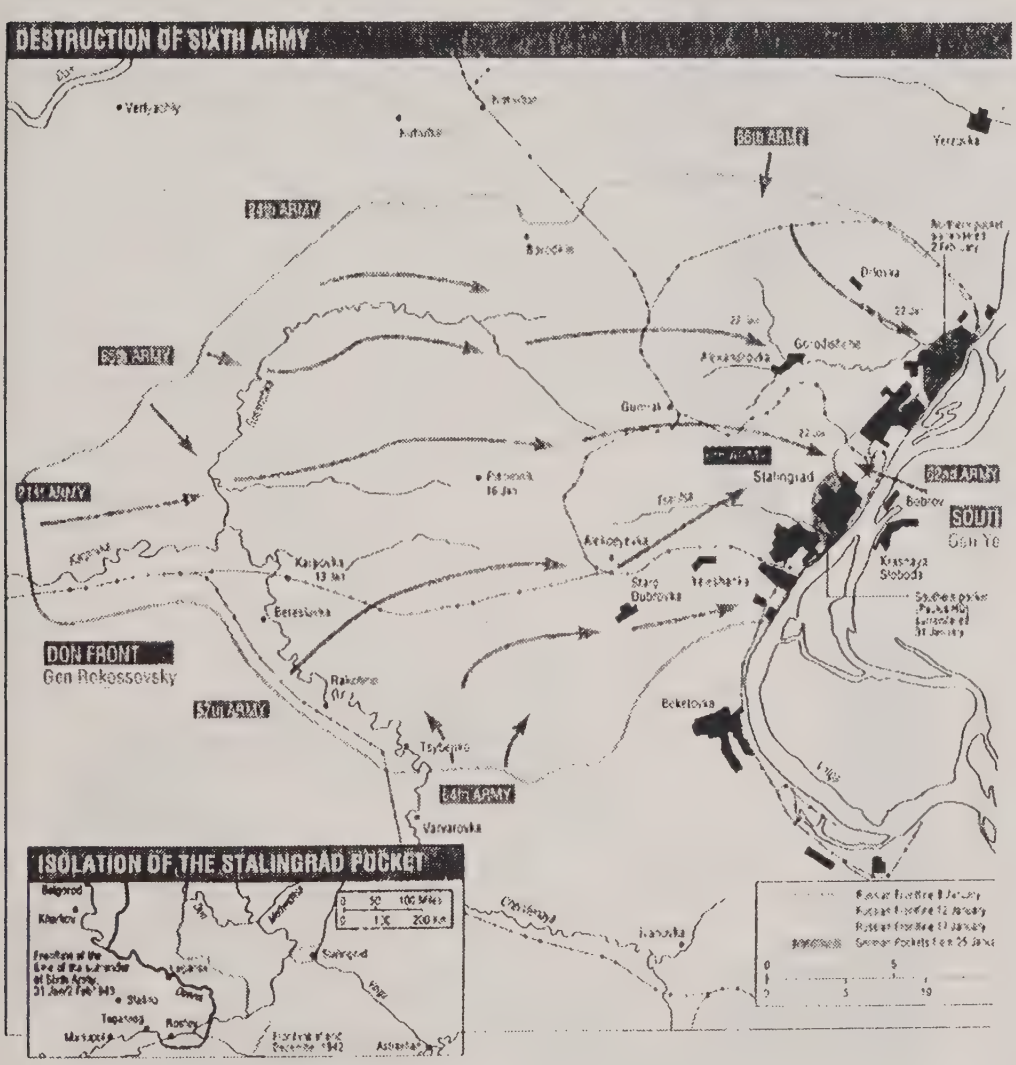
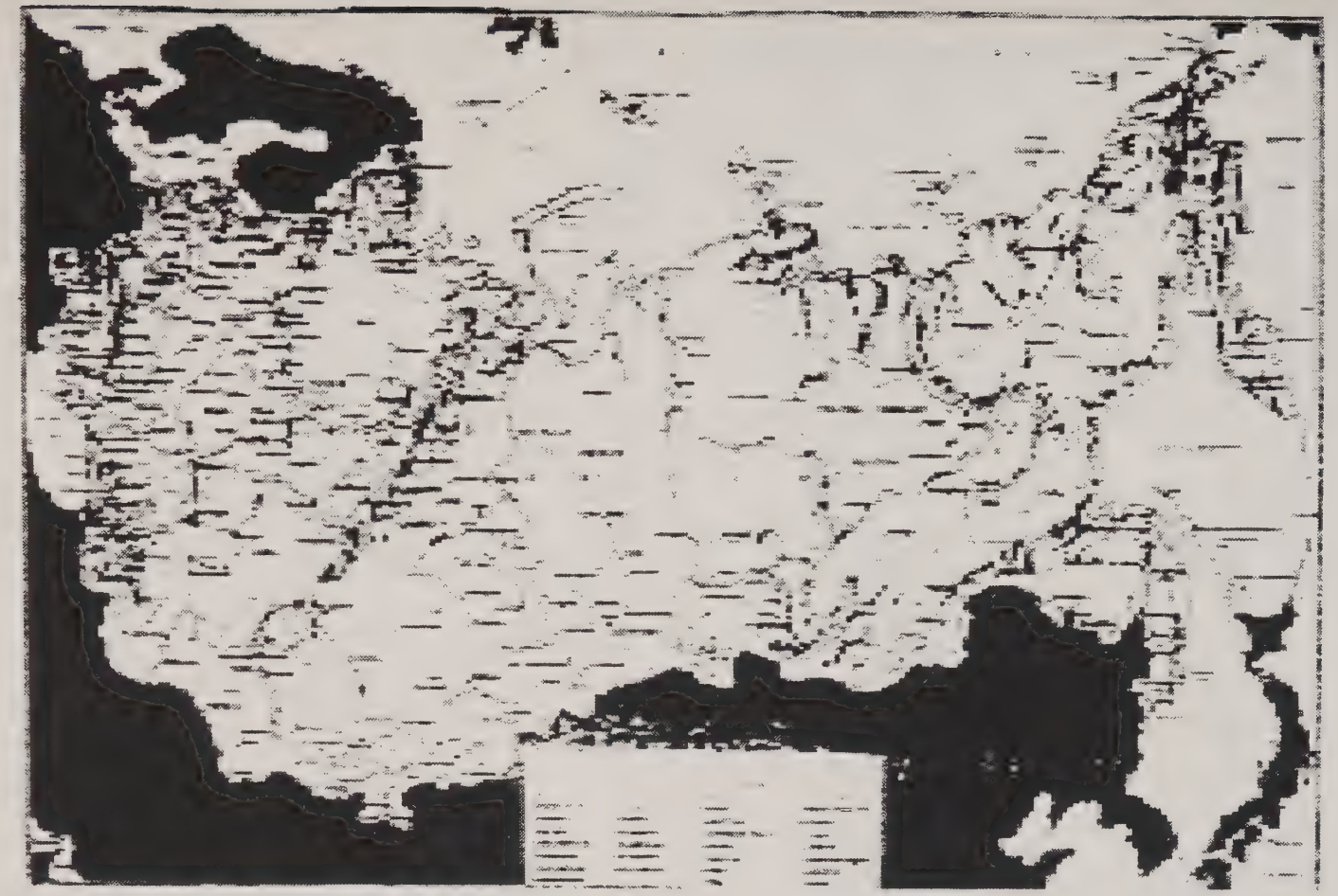
THE BATTLE FOR STALINGRAD





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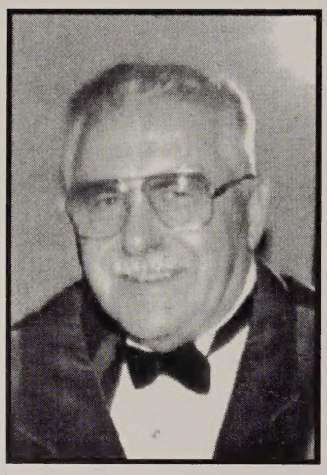

The Evil Empire is at once a probing historical document and a compelling personal account of one man's bittersweet journey through the violent history of 20th Century Russia.

Jacob Goldman is a native of Odessa City, Ukraine-former USSR. As a veteran of WWII, named in the USSR-THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR-he participated in Soviet Army Battles from July 1941 till April 1945. 1945-1947 served in Soviet Military Administration in Turingen, Germany, and thereafter-managed industrial enterprises in the USSR. After moving with his family to Los Angeles in 1975-as refugees-active in Real Estate-brokerage, development and management.
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